

REMARKS

Claims 1-47 are pending in the application. Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 20 and 39. Claims 48-51 are newly added. Support for the amendments is found, for example, from Page 13, Lines 6-15 of the specification. No new matter is introduced by this amendment. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments made to the claims and the following remarks.

The Examiner has rejected claims 39-41 and 43-44 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by WO99/36836 to Hass et al, (hereinafter "Hass"). The Examiner has further rejected claims 1-38, 42 and 45-47 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Hass. Applicants respectfully submit that the above rejections are overcome in view of the amendments made to the claims and the following remarks.

Applicants' independent claim 1, as amended, recites an access control system, which includes, *inter alia*, a plurality of identity badges including symbols located on each identity badge; a computer network for exchanging information between devices connected to the computer network; a video camera coupled to the computer network and operative to record digital images and send the digital images over the computer network; a badge reading computer connected to the computer network, the badge reading computer having access to the digital images and operative to execute symbol recognition software to identify the symbols on the identity badges from the digital images; a database coupled to the badge reading computer containing identity information and access control information associated with the symbols on each identity badge; and an access control computer connected to the computer network, operative to receive badge identity data from the badge reading computer and control access to a secure area. Significantly, wherein the database further comprises camera control information associated with

the symbols on each the identity badge for initiating reprogramming of the camera and the access control computer is operative to reprogram the camera based on the cameral control information.

In this way, a more efficient and automated accessing control system can be achieved.

Applicants' independent claim 20, as amended, recites an access control system, which includes a plurality of identity badges including symbols located on each identity badge; a computer network for exchanging information between devices connected to the computer network; a video camera operative to record and send analog images; an analog-to-digital converter coupled to the computer network, operative to convert the analog images to digital images, the digital images then sent over the computer network; a badge reading computer connected to the computer network, the badge reading computer having access to the digital images and operative to execute symbol recognition software to identify the symbols on the identity badges from the digital images; a database coupled to the badge reading computer containing identity information and access control information associated with the symbols on each the identity badge; and an access control computer connected to the computer network, operative to receive badge identity data from the badge reading computer and control access to a secure area. Significantly, the database further comprises camera control information associated with the symbols on each the identity badge for initiating reprogramming of the camera and the access control computer is operative to reprogram the camera based on the cameral control information.

Applicants' independent claim 39, as amended, recites a method of controlling access to a secure area, which includes recording a digital image of a person and an identity badge with a camera, transmitting the digital image to a computer, retrieving identity information and access control information from a database based on symbols on the identity badge, comparing the

identity information with the person in the digital image, allowing access when a positive result arises from the comparison step and reprogramming the camera.

Turning to the prior art, Hass discloses an ID badge verification system, which includes a badge (24), and a CCTV monitoring system having a camera (20) and an image processor (26). Specifically, the badge includes reflective surface having a predetermined reflective pattern indicating a predetermined ID status of a bearer of the badge. The reflective pattern has the capability of time-dependently changing from a first reflective pattern to a second reflective pattern by electromagnetic radiation. Accordingly, the bearer's ID status in the system is updated from a first ID status to a second ID status.

However, Hass does not disclose that the badge, the reflective pattern or any other part of the badge can be used to reprogram the camera, such as authorizing a software update or changing the operating mode of the camera.

In contrast, the present invention as recited by claims 1, 20 and 39 contemplates a novel access control system or method wherein badges and the symbols thereof can be used to reprogram the camera of the system capturing images of the badges and the bearers of the badges.

Thus, Hass fails to disclose each and every element of claim 39, from which claims 40-45 depend. Since a claim rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 requires that each and every element of the claim must be disclosed by a single reference, the rejection of claims 39-41 and 43-45 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) based on Hass is overcome and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Moreover, Hass does not teach or fairly suggest the combination of features of claims 1, 20 and 39, from which all the other claims depend ultimately. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1-38, 42 and 45-47 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Hass is overcome.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is firmly believed that the

subject application is in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Esatto, Jr.', written in a cursive style.

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